

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An aircraft video data recorder system, comprising:
 - a. A digital memory array;
 - b. A signal generating device located strategically in the aircraft;
 - c. A coupler for receiving data signals from the signal generating device;
 - d. An encoder for converting the data signals to an IP protocol; and
 - e. An interface for introducing the IP protocol signals to the memory array.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the encoder is located at the VDR.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein the encoder is located at the signal generating device.
4. The system of claim 1, wherein the signal generating device is an IP protocol camera.
5. The system of claim 1, wherein the signal generating device is an analog camera further including a digital signal encoder.
6. The system of claim 1, wherein the signal generating device is an analog audio transmitter further including a digital signal encoder.
7. The system of claim 1, wherein there are further included a plurality of signal generating devices, each of said devices generating a discrete signal and wherein there is further including a multiplexer for combining the signals into a single signal for transmission to the memory.
8. The system of claim 1, wherein there are further included a plurality of dissimilar signal generating devices and there is further included a switched hub for managing the signals therefrom.

9. The system of claim 1, wherein the signal generating device is a wireless device and wherein there is further included a wireless access point associated with the system for transmitting the wireless signal from the wireless device to the system.
- 5 10. The system of claim 1, wherein the signal generating device is a legacy flight data acquisition and management system.
11. The system of claim 1, further including a panic button device for sending an alert signal to the system when activated.
- 10 12. The system of claim 12, wherein the alert signal is also a control signal for controlling distribution of the output signals from the VDR when the panic button device is activated.
13. The system of claim 1, further including a communication link for sending the data
15 signals to an external receiving station.
14. The system of claim 13, wherein the communication link is a communications satellite interface.
- 20 15. The system of claim 13, wherein the communication link is a military radio.
16. The system of claim 13, wherein the communication link is a wireless LAN.
17. The system of claim 1, further including an output link directly to a LAN interface for
25 distributing the data signals.
18. The system of claim 17, further including a switch hub for distributing the output signals via the LAN interface.
- 30 19. The system of claim 18, including an ARINC link for receiving the distributed output signals from the LAN interface.

20. The system of claim 18, including an aircraft LAN for receiving the distributed output signals from the LAN interface.